



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993

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September 5, 2007

**PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN NO. PA 180-7-7**

**SUBJECT: CPA – Conservation Program Ranking Cycles**

**Purpose.** To provide direction to NRCS employees on conservation program ranking cycles and dates.

**Expiration Date.** September 30, 2008.

**Background.** As a result of some recent national discussions on allocations, impacts of a new Farm Bill, and managing workload, we are setting an additional earlier date of October 31, 2007 for pooling of applications for ranking purposes. We will retain the previously set dates of November 30, 2007 and February 1, 2008 but these will now be the second and third dates not the first and second. We will be getting word out on this via news releases, web site, etc. next week. We are still scheduled to finish ranking systems and practice payment rates and other program details by the end of September.

These dates are when applications would need to be in our hands to be considered for rankings. It is not a date by which rankings need to be done.

**Action.** NRCS personnel should record the date an application is received on the paper application form. Enter that information into protracts for AMA, EQIP, and WHIP. Ranking should begin as soon as possible after receipt. Applications and rankings for WRP should be sent to the State Office, Attention: Barry Frantz, with a copy sent to Martha Joseph at the Erie County Office.

**Action Dates:**

**October 1, 2007 – Ranking system will be finished and sent to the field.**

**October 31, 2007 – Pool applications for first ranking.**

**November 30, 2007 – Pool applications for second ranking.**

**February 1, 2008 – Pool applications for third ranking.**

Questions about conservation program ranking should be directed to Barry Frantz.

/s/ Gary P. Smith, Acting

CRAIG R. DERICKSON  
State Conservationist

**DIST: AO**

